

WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today announced he has obtained \$800,000 in funding for defense research at the Materials Applications Research Center (MARC) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB).

The funding is included in the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, which was approved by the House yesterday.

Congressman Bachus said, "The research and development being done in Birmingham is providing a direct benefit to our troops in the field. It has been my pleasure to personally see how UAB is using advanced materials to develop safer military gear and equipment for our troops. The laboratory facilities at the MARC are ideal for rapidly moving promising technology from the idea stage to actual production. We can be very proud of the technological expertise that has been built up at UAB because it benefits the entire nation."

The MARC has large scale laboratory facilities and the operational environment designed to help assure the timely development and transfer of new materials and manufacturing technologies to the military.

Dr. Richard Marchase, Vice President for Research and Economic Development at UAB, said, "We are delighted to receive this funding. We anticipate the work we are doing will provide better armor and vehicle protection that is important for the safety of our troops. The civilian applications from our research will have additional benefits for our community and the rest of the nation as well."

Funding for the project would be administered by the Department of the Army. Legislation must be passed by both the House and Senate and signed by the President before becoming law.

